

## Message Text

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ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 AID-05 CEQ-01 CIAE-00  
ERDA-05 COME-00 DODE-00 EPA-01 INR-07 L-03 NSF-01  
NSC-05 NSAE-00 PM-04 USIA-06 OES-06 SS-15 SP-02  
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TRSE-00 ACDA-07 /115 W

-----311645Z 099576 /43

P R 311520Z MAR 77

FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WAHDC PRIORITY 5756

USMISSION GENEVA PRIORITY

INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY BERLIN

USMISSION BERLIN UNN

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY BONN

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMCONSUL MUNICH

USMISSION NATO

USMISSION OECD PARIS

AMEMBASSY PARIS UNN

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

USDEL MBFR VIENNA

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 4359

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: ECE CSCE SENV ENRG ETRN PFOR UR

SUBJECT: SOVIET PROPOSAL FOR ALL-EUROPEAN CONGRESSES ON

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ENVIRONMENT, TRANSPORTATION AND ENERGY

REFS: (A) MOSCOW 3591, (B) GENEVA 2024 (NOTAL), (C) GENEVA 2203  
(NOTAL, (D) GENEVA 2337 (NOTAL)

SUMMARY: MFA OFFICIALS CLAIM SOVIETS ARE CONVINCED OF NEED FOR  
CONGRESSES TO PROVIDE "POLITICAL PUSH" TO ACHIEVE FASTER, MORE

EFFECTIVE ACTION IN FIELDS OF ENERGY, ENVIRONMENT AND TRANSPORTATION. HOWEVER, MODALITIES -- ORDER, TIMING AND AUSPICES-- ALL REMAIN OPEN TO FURTHER, "CONSTRUCTIVE" DISCUSSION". SOVIETS INDICATE THEY ACCEPT IMPORTANT ROLE FOR ECE IN PROCESS. BUT, IN OUR VIEW, THEY DO NOT YET CONCEDE THE ECE AN EXCLUSIVE ROLE. END SUMMARY.

1. IN AN ATTEMPT TO FIND OUT MORE ABOUT THE SOVIET UNION'S CURRENT POSITION REGARDING THE ROLE FO THE ECE IN CONNECTION WITH THE QUESTION OF CONGRESSES ON THE ENVIRONMENT, TRANSPORTATION AND ENERGY, EMBOFF MET MARCH 30 WITH FIRST SECRETARY OLEG V. KRIVONOGOV AND PETR TSYBA OF MFA'S DEPARTMENT OF INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC ORGANIZATIONS. BOTH OF THEM HAVE SERVED WITH SMUN GENEVA AT TIMES AND BOTH WERE WELL ACQUAINTED WITH THE SUBJECT MATTER.

2. THE SOVIET PROPOSAL WAS NOT MEANT TO DIMINISH THE ROLE OF THE ECE BUT, ON THE CONTRARY, TO GIVE AN ADDED IMPULSE TO ITS WORK IN THE THREE FIELDS AND TO "RAISE ITS WORK TO A HIGHER LEVEL," KRIVONOGOV SAID. THE LACK OF PROGRESS SINCE CSCE NECESSITATES, IN THE SOVIET VIEW, A POLITICAL IMPULSE, A HIGH-LEVEL DECISION TO PUSH IDEAS INTO DEEDS, IN THE ECE AND IN OTHER ORGANIZATIONS AS WELL.

3. LATELY, SAID KRIVONOGOV, THE IDEA OF TAKING STEPS OUTSIDE OF EXISTING ORGANIZATIONS, INCLUDING OUTSIDE THE ECE, HAS BEEN EXPRESSED BY MANY GOVERNMENTS AND EVEN BY ECE EXECSEC HIMSELF. IN THIS CONNECTION KRIVONOGOV MENTIONED THE FINNISH CONFIDENTIAL

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IDEA OF HOLDING A CONFERENCE ON ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION IN FINLAND AND OUTSIDE THE ECE FRAMEWORK.

4. KRIVONOGOV SAID MFA'S TRANSLATORS INSIST THAT PREPARING AND HOLDING THE CONGRESSES OR MEETINGS "WITH THE HELP OF" OR "THROUGH THE INSTRUMENTALITY OF" THE ECE ARE IDENTICAL OR VIRTUALLY IDENTICAL IN MEANING. THE MEANING AND SIGNIFICANCE OF THE PHRASE, HOWEVER, EMERGES FROM THE LETTER AS A WHOLE.

5. THE FORMULA "WITH THE HELP OF" THE ECE WAS INTRODUCED AFTER THE USSR SAW THE REACTIONS TO ITS EARLIER POSITIONS. QUESTIONS ABOUT THE TRANSLATION AND INTERPRETATION OF THIS PHRASE CAN, OF COURSE, BE FREELY EXPRESSED AT THE FORTH-COMING ECE SESSION. NEVERTHELESS, IT PROVIDES, HE ASSERTED, COMMON GROUND FOR FURTHER DISCUSSION. THE MAIN POINT NOW IS THAT "PRACTICALLY ALL" GOVERNMENTS ARE WILLING TO SAY THAT CONGRESSES ARE NECESSARY. AS FOR THE MODALITIES, THE SOVIET UNION BELIEVES THERE SHOULD BE FURTHER "CONSTRUCTIVE"

DELIBERATIONS; THE USSR IS WILLING TO LISTEN TO ALL  
OTHER VIEWS.

6. IN RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS, KRIVONOGOV SAID THAT THE ORDER,  
TIMING AND AUSPICES OF THE CONGRESSES WERE ALL OPEN TO DIS-  
CUSSION. HE THOUGHT IT POSSIBLE THAT A CONGRESS COULD BE  
HELD AFTER GROUPS OF EXPERTS AND SPECIALISTS HAD REACHED  
SUFFICIENT AGREEMENT TO JUSTIFY HOLDING A HIGHER LEVEL  
POLITICAL MEETING TO RATIFY THEIR WORK OR SIGN AN AGREEMENT AS  
APPROPRIATE. IN THIS CONNECTION, TSYBA POINTED OUT THAT THE  
SOVIET DELEGATION TO THE PREVIOUS ECE SESSION HAD INDICATED  
THAT WHILE IT WAS NOT POSSIBLE TO POSTPONE THE CONGRESSES  
INDEFINITELY, THE USSR WAS PREPARED TO CONSIDER HOLDING THEM  
"IN GOOD TIME" AND AFTER THE NECESSARY PREPARATORY WORK HAD  
BEEN DONE. THUS, HE SUGGESTED, THE CONGRESSES NEED NOT  
BE HELD IN THE VERY NEAR FUTURE. BOTH MEN SEEMED TO ACCEPT  
THAT THE PREPARATIONS COULD WELL TAKE ONE TO TWO YEARS.  
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## Message Attributes

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